

112
I feel your necessity for your letter
and I rank among those who
go on well at home. Steady has not arrived.

Providence, Aug. 5, 1874.

My dear Wendell:

For lack of ink, at this moment, I resort to my pencil to answer your letter of the 2d. Gratifying as it was to receive it, I felt that I ought first to have reciprocated one or two previous ones from you, and certainly have been intending to write to you sooner.

I came here last Thursday, wishing to see what something like systematic and continuous treatment would do for my rheumatism - an ailment which seems at this season to be unusually prevalent in this section. Thus far I have simply had, before going to bed each night, an application of electricity to my spine and knees, with hand manipulation; but no perceptible effect has yet followed. Dr. Dow has been unable to give me the baths upon which he mainly relies in my case, in consequence of making repairs in that part of his establishment; but these are now

completed, and I shall now be vigorously treated. Still, the enemy has so long been entrenched that I am not sanguine of his being speedily driven out, if at all. May your sympathizing wishes, however, and my desires, be realized. It is now more painful to me to walk than it has been at any time; my left knee being much more stiff than the right. In other respects I am feeling very well, my appetite being excellent and my countenance indicating no change for the worse.

If I had been sure of seeing Lucy and the boys at Watch Hill, I would have gone there on Saturday, and spent Sunday with them. I trust Lucy will obtain something more than temporary relief from her rheumatic pains by her sojourn at that pleasant retreat; but even that was ~~another~~ the visit. The sea-bathing would probably be too cold for me, especially as the weather continues unusually cool for ^{the} season - ~~at~~ one night giving a white frost in this section. But

I have a desire to see Watch Hill because you and Lucy like the location so well, (and Dr. Dow and his wife concur in your judgment,) and may spend a day there before I return home. Should I do so, I will go to the hotel at which you boarded, if you will let me know when you write again.

The turning up of Sojourner Truth at the Park must have been a surprise to you all. She is indeed a remarkable woman, and always deserving of considerate and kind treatment; but, at her extreme age, (she is older than 83, probably close on to 90,) it is a pity that she cannot remain quiet at her home in Battle Creek, instead of perambulating about the country, compelling hospitality whether or no. I wonder if she is aiming for Boston. Doubtless she is.

I hope Charley will be the successful competitor with his architectural design for the proposed new city hall in Providence, for many reasons; but where competition is

so sharp and wire-pulling so strong, there is no telling what fate may attend the best design. Still, "there's nothing like trying."

It must have been very gratifying to dear Mrs. Weld to ^{have} enjoyed your hospitality and society at the Parks. Like her departed sister Sarah, she is a saintly woman, without any thought of or pretension to saintship. Give my affectionate remembrances to her and Theodore.

^{Tilton}
 "The Beecher Scandal" is a most sickening revelation. While Beecher has lacked circumspection and laid himself open to suspicion of criminal conduct, it is my belief that he has been ^{fully}, falsely and maliciously accused by Tilton, whose exhibitions of himself indicate a low nature and a thoroughly unscrupulous spirit, and whose treatment of his wife has been unquestionably outrageously contemptuous and brutal. But the end is not yet.

Love intense to dear Mrs. McKim and Lucy.
 Your affectionate Father.